

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

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Claim 1 (withdrawn) A method of making a multilumen catheter, comprising:
forming a unitary catheter tube to have a distal portion and a distal
end portion terminating in a distal end, a proximal portion terminating in a proximal
end, and a first lumen and a second lumen, each of the first lumen and the second
lumen extending longitudinally through the unitary catheter tube; and
splitting the unitary catheter tube longitudinally along the distal
end portion of the unitary catheter tube to form a first distal end tube and a second
distal end tube.

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Claim 2 (withdrawn) the method according to claim 1, further comprising
grinding and polishing the first and second distal end tubes to provide a generally
smooth exterior surface to each of the two distal end tubes.

Claim 3 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 2, further comprising
grinding and polishing the first and second distal end tubes on a mandrel to shape the
first and second distal end tubes to have a generally circular transverse cross sectional
configuration.

Claim 4 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising
forming the unitary catheter tube by a heat molding process.

Claim 5 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the heat
molding process is extrusion.

Claim 6 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising
forming the unitary catheter tube such that the unitary catheter tube has a cross
sectional configuration which is generally oval.

Claim 7 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising forming the unitary catheter tube such that the first and second lumens of the unitary catheter tube are substantially identical in transverse cross section.

Claim 8 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 7, wherein the first and second lumens have a generally circular transverse cross section.

Claim 9 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising forming a plurality of holes through an exterior surface of the first distal end tube and through an exterior surfaced of the second distal end tube.

Claim 10 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first distal end tube has a length which is less than a length of the second distal end tube, the lengths being measured in a longitudinal direction.

Claim 11 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a first extension tube in fluid communication with a proximal end of the first lumen and a second extension tube in fluid communication with a proximal end of the second lumen.

Claim 12 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, further comprising providing a hub having at least a first passageway and a second passageway extending therethrough which connects the proximal end of the unitary catheter tube to the first and second extension tubes such that the first passageway is in fluid communication with the first lumen and the first extension tube and the second passageway is in fluid communication with the second lumen and the second extension tube.

Claim 13 (withdrawn) the method according to claim 12, wherein the hub is formed by heat molding and the method further comprises inserting a first rod in the

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first extension tube and in the first lumen such that the first lumen is spaced from the first extension tube, inserting a second rod in the second extension tube and in the second lumen such that the second lumen is spaced from the second extension tube, molding the hub around the rods such that the hub encloses the proximal end of the unitary catheter and connects the proximal end of the unitary catheter to the first and second extension tubes, and removing the first rod and the second rod after forming the hub.

Claim 14 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, wherein the hub is molded to have proximally extending projections formed around distal ends of the first and second extension tubes to divert the first and second extension tubes away from each other.

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Claim 15 (withdrawn) A method of making a multilumen catheter assembly, comprising:

arranging a first catheter having a distal end, a distal end portion and at least one first lumen extending longitudinally therethrough and a second catheter having a distal end, a distal end portion and at least one second lumen extending longitudinally therethrough such that the first catheter and the second catheter are substantially longitudinally parallel; and

forming an outer layer around at least a portion of an exterior surface of the first catheter proximal to the distal end portion of the first catheter and around at least a portion of an exterior surface of the second catheter proximal to the distal end portion of the second catheter such that the first catheter and the second catheter are fixed within the outer layer, the first lumen and the second

CI lumen are generally parallel within the outer layer and the distal end portions of the first and second catheters extend outwardly and distally from the portions of the exterior surfaces of the first and second catheters which are within the outer layer and the distal end portions are capable of independent movement.

Claim 16 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, wherein the outer layer is heat molded around at least a portion of the exterior surface of the first catheter and around at least a portion of the exterior surface of the second catheter.

Claim 17 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, wherein the first and second catheter are in juxtaposed relation within the outer layer.

BI Claim 18 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, wherein a proximal end portion of the first catheter and a proximal end portion of the second catheter extend proximally from a proximal end of the outer layer and a hub is provided around the proximal end of the outer layer and around a section of the proximal end portions of the first and second catheter adjacent the outer layer.

Claim 19 (withdrawn) A method of making a multilumen catheter assembly, comprising:

forming a unitary catheter tube to have a distal portion and a distal end portion terminating in a distal end, a proximal portion terminating in a proximal end, and a first lumen and a second lumen, each of the first lumen and the second lumen extending longitudinally through the unitary catheter tube;

forming a first distal end tube having a first passageway extending longitudinally therethrough and a second distal end tube having a second passageway extending longitudinally therethrough; and

attaching the first and second distal end tubes to the distal end of the unitary catheter tube such that the first passageway in the first distal end tube is in communication with the first lumen of the unitary catheter tube and the second passageway in the second distal end tube is in communication with the second lumen in the unitary catheter tube.

Claims 20-25 (canceled).

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Claim ~~26~~ (previously presented) The multilumen catheter assembly according to claim ~~36~~¹, further comprising a first extension tube in fluid communication with a first lumen and a second extension tube in fluid communication with the second lumen.

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Claim ~~27~~ (previously presented) The multilumen catheter assembly according to claim ~~26~~², wherein the hub is configured to divert the distal ends of the extension tubes away from each other.

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Claim ~~28~~ (previously presented) The multilumen catheter assembly according to claim ~~36~~¹, further comprising a connector and a clamp releasably attached to each extension tube.

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Claim ~~29~~ (previously presented) The multilumen catheter assembly according to claim ~~36~~¹, further comprising a plurality of holes formed through each of the first and second distal end tubes to provide fluid flow from outside the first and second distal end tubes into the passageways in the first and second distal end tubes.

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Claim ~~30~~ (previously presented) The multilumen catheter assembly according to claim ~~36~~¹, further comprising a first distal end opening in the first distal end tube and a second distal end opening in the second distal end tube.

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Claim 31 (withdrawn) A method for inserting a multilumen catheter assembly into an area of a body to be catheterized, wherein the multilumen catheter assembly comprises a unitary catheter having an exterior surface and at least a first lumen and a second lumen extending longitudinally therethrough, a distal end and a proximal end; and at least a first distal end tube defining a first longitudinally extending passageway and a second distal end tube defining a second longitudinally extending passageway, wherein the first and second distal end tubes extend distally from the distal end of the unitary catheter, the first passageway in the first distal end tube is in fluid communication with the first lumen, the second passageway in the second distal end tube is in fluid communication with the second lumen and the first and second distal end tubes are capable of independent movement with respect to each other, the method comprising:

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- (a) making an incision near the area to be catheterized;
- (b) inserting the first and second distal end tubes through the incision and into the area to be catheterized until the first and second distal end tubes are fully within the area to be catheterized and a portion of the unitary catheter extends into the area to be catheterized; and
- (c) securing the proximal end of the unitary catheter.

Claim 32 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 31, wherein step (c) further comprises securing the proximal end of the unitary catheter in a subcutaneous tunnel.

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C1> Claim 33 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 31, further comprising inserting the first and second distal end tubes into the area to be catheterized through a catheter introducer sheath.

Claim 34 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 31, further comprising inserting the catheter assembly into the area to be catheterized over a guide wire.

Claim 35 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 31, further comprising closing the incision.

Claim ~~36~~¹ (currently amended) A multilumen catheter assembly having a distal portion, wherein the catheter assembly comprises:

31 a unitary catheter body having a plurality of lumens disposed therein, wherein the entire body has a generally oval cross section, wherein the unitary catheter body includes a longitudinal plane generally bisecting the unitary catheter body;

wherein the plurality of lumens comprises:

a first lumen disposed within the unitary catheter body on a first side of the longitudinal plane, wherein the first lumen is generally circular in cross section and has a first length; and

a second lumen disposed within the unitary catheter body on a second side of the longitudinal plane, opposing the first side of the longitudinal plane, wherein the second lumen is generally circular in cross section and has a second length, different from the first length;

wherein the distal portion of the catheter assembly is split along the longitudinal plane such that each of the first and second lumens is capable of

free movement independent of the other of the first and second lumens, ~~and such that the first and second lumens are capable of being juxtapositioned along the longitudinal centerline, forming a distal section having a generally oval cross section;~~

wherein the catheter assembly further comprises a first extension tube in fluid communication with the first lumen and a second extension tube in fluid communication with the second lumen.

Claim ¹37. (currently amended) A multilumen catheter assembly having a distal portion, wherein the catheter assembly comprises:

a unitary catheter body having a plurality of lumens disposed therein, wherein the entire body has a generally circular cross section, wherein the unitary catheter body includes a longitudinal plane generally bisecting the unitary catheter body;

wherein the plurality of lumens comprises:

a first lumen disposed within the unitary catheter body on a first side of the longitudinal plane, wherein the first lumen is generally circular in cross section and has a first length; and

a second lumen disposed within the unitary catheter body on a second side of the longitudinal plane, opposing the first side of the longitudinal plane, wherein the second lumen is generally circular in cross section and has a second length, different from the first length;

wherein the distal portion of the catheter assembly is split along the longitudinal plane such that each of the first and second lumens is capable of free movement independent of the other of the first and second lumens, ~~and such that~~

~~the first and second lumens are capable of being juxtapositioned along the longitudinal centerline, forming a distal section having a generally oval cross section;~~

wherein the catheter assembly further comprises a first extension tube in fluid communication with the first lumen and a second extension tube in fluid communication with the second lumen.

[Claims 38-39 (canceled)

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40. (previously presented) The multilumen catheter assembly according to claim 37, further comprising a connector and a clamp releasably attached to each extension tube.

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41. (previously presented) The multilumen catheter assembly according to claim 37, further comprising a plurality of holes formed through each of the first and second distal end tubes to provide fluid flow from outside the first and second distal end tubes into the passageways in the first and second distal end tubes.

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42. (previously presented) The multilumen catheter assembly according to claim 37, further comprising a first distal end opening in the first distal end tube and a second distal end opening in the second distal end tube.